

DHS senior to perform with NAFME All National Band

BY GILLIAN SMITH, EDITOR

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Duxbury senior Olav Serres has been selected to perform with the NAFME All National Band, a chance given to only a handful of high school music students. Serres first picked up a trumpet in fifth grade, when Duxbury students are given the opportunity to choose an instrument to play. He had considered playing the saxophone, or even the drums, but it was the trumpet that ultimately caught his attention. Trumpet playing also runs in the family, as Serres' father also played trumpet when he was in high school.

"I chose the trumpet because it is more mellow and not as pingy as the saxophone," he said.

Over the years, Serres has started spending more and more time practicing and focusing on mastering the trumpet. He tries to set aside at least an hour every day to practice. On top of that hour,

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Olav Serres

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Serres also plays in the jazz band, the full orchestra and the pit orchestra, which performs with the drama department.

"There is not a day when I don't touch my trumpet," he said.

The process of being selected to the National Band is not an easy one. First, Serres had to audition for the All-District Band. Once he was selected to the district band and received a high enough score, he was requested to audition for the All-State Band. He received both recognitions last year and auditioned for the national band this year.

The National Association for Music Education All-National Honor Ensembles represents the top performing high school musicians in the United States. In order to be eligible, students must be high school sophomores, juniors or seniors, must have already been accepted into their states' All-State Festival, be a member of his or her school's choral, string or instrumental ensemble and receive endorsement from his or her music director. Serres said he was surprised when he found out and said the notification came from an unexpected source. "I actually got a text from Christian Dow, who was named to the National Band last year as a Duxbury senior, congratulating me," Serres said. "I didn't believe it at first, so I went onto the website and looked for myself."

Now that he has been selected to perform with the band, he will travel to Nashville on Oct. 25 to spend a few days rehearsing and preparing for the show, which will be held at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn.

Serres said he enjoys playing the trumpet and is considering pursuing music in college, perhaps at Ithaca College or St. Olaf College.

When asked what it was about the trumpet that he enjoys so much, Serres said it fits his personality.

"I feel like it is a very prominent sound; I like to lead and start things off," he said. "It's less that you find the instrument and more that the instrument finds you."

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